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Montana's Foster Parent

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Ann Burds Social and Rehabilitation Services Helena, Montana
836 Front Street
June - July '74

Dear Foster Parents :

Due to the lack of space in this issue, I'll minimize my "words of wisdom" to only a short paragraph.

Activities among the local foster parent associations consist mainly of family picnics during the summer months. Setting aside the educational aspect, social gatherings often prove to be an excellent opportunity for foster families to get together and enjoy the outdoors. A special emphasis should be placed on families. Often times the foster mother is the only one who attends the regular meetings. I feel it is important that the fathers also take an active part. Make an effort to attend one of the next meetings in your area. I think you'll enjoy all the new and innovative ideas taking place in foster care. You'll never know for sure until you try it.

- Ann Burds

Looking for ideas in planning next years monthly foster parent meetings? The following are available on loan through my office.

Tapes:
- How Fostering Affects The Family
- Behavior Disorders by Mary Reistroffer
- Childrens Rights
- Child Abuse

Films:
- "Kate" (discusses separation and placement)
- "Children in Peril" (discusses child abuse)

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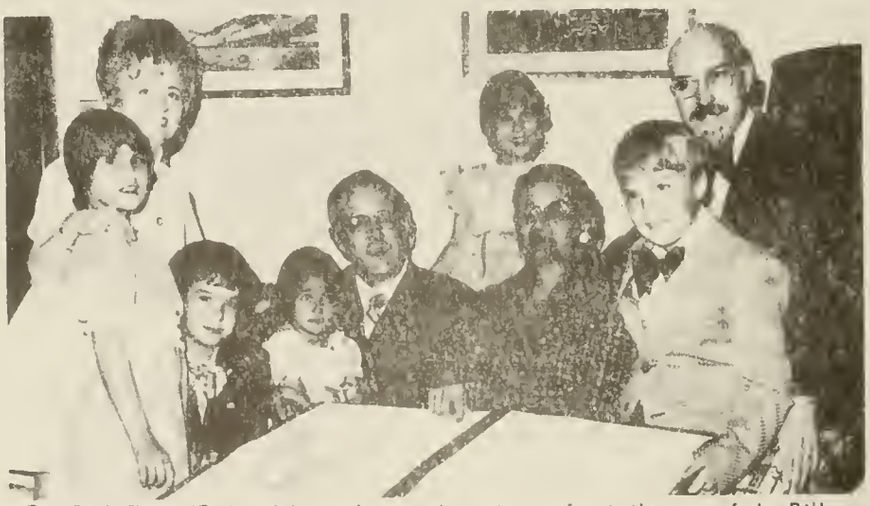
WATCH OUT IF YOU HEAR A TEACHER SAY:

1. "You're too big to cry."
2. "Aren't you ashamed?"
3. "I want you to give it to Barbara now."
4. "You're so clumsy! Look how nicely Joe did it."
5. "Don't get in the other children's way."
6. "You're too big to need help."
7. "Get the pail for me, like a good girl."
8. "That doesn't look like anything to me! You can do better than that."
9. "You must never take things from the school."
10. "Never climb with a hammer in your hand."

BE REASSURED IF YOU HEAR A TEACHER SAY:

1. "I know it hurts."
2. "Let's find some dry pants."
3. "It's Barbara's turn now."
4. "Too bad. I'll help you mop it up."
5. "Ride the tricycle over her where there is more space."
6. "Let's see if you can do it all yourself."
7. "Let's get the other pail and then you can both make cakes."
8. "I guess it feels good to pound the clay real hard today, doesn't it".
9. "I know you like it but this toy belongs to the school."
10. "If you want to climb so high you'll need another hand. I'll hold the hammer."



Rep. Dick Shoup (R.Mont.) (seated, center) receives a facsimile copy of the Bill of Rights for Foster Children from Mrs. Marie Cox, NAFC Committee chairman (to his left) and members of the Donald Dickson family in ceremonies in the Congressman's Washington, D.C. office during Action for Foster Children Week. The Dicksons, who live in Richboro, Pa., are (from left) Mrs. Dickson; Lucy, 7; Tom, 11; Ann Marie, 3; Arlene, 6; David, 10; and Dickson, who is the National Foster Parent Association representative to the NAFC Committee. Rep. Shoup has read into the Congressional Record the text of the Bill of Rights for Foster Children and has introduced legislation calling for the issuance of a commemorative postage stamp [illegible] foster care.

The picture on the left was printed in the National Action for Foster Children Bulletin.

Thank you Rep. Shoup, for helping to make people of the United States more aware of foster care and the rights of foster children.

MSFPO COMMITTEE REPORTS

MEMBERSHIP

A rough draft of an informational brochure on the Montana State Foster Parent Organization has been sent out to each member of the committee for further suggestions. At the present, the contents will include 1) Purposes of MSFPO, 2) Why join MSFPO, 3) Necessity of foster parent liability insurance, and 4) Application for membership. We have gained the consent of a free lance writer to design and lay out the entire brochure. The only cost to MSFPO will be that of printing. Watch for it soon.

COMMUNICATIONS

Each committee member has written a summary of foster parent association activities in their individual districts. These reports can be found on another page in this newsletter. Also, the minutes of the May MSFPO meeting have been sent to Donna Funge, National Foster Parent Association Region VIII Communications Chairman.

FINANCE

A MSFPO technical assistance grant for $5,000 has been written and is presently being submitted to various offices in the state. Hopefully, the results will be published in the next newsletter.

PROGRAM AND CONFERENCE

A few preliminary plans have been made regarding the agenda for the October MSFPO meeting. It will be a two day (weekend) conference held in Kalispell. We hope to have a legislative discussion with legislators seeking office in the November election. More details later.

INSURANCE

All members of MSFP who have paid their dues are covered under the liability insurance effective May 8, 1974 through May 1975.

LEGISLATURE

A book printed by Just Us, Inc. entitled, Voting Records and Legislative Grades has been distributed to each member of the legislative committee. A group of foster parents from Helena will soon be meeting with SRS personnel to determine their priorities for the next legislative session. Reports of this meeting will be printed next month.

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Two changes have been made regarding members serving on committees. Communications: Peggy Kayser, 4112 Larkspur Dr., Missoula 59801 has replaced De West who moved to Bozeman. Legislature: Lisa Marx, 2109 3rd Ave. N., Great Falls 59401 has replaced Evelyn Meyerhoffer.

Wouldn't you like to be a hit at the next potluck picnic your family is invited to? Below is a recipe found in McCall's Magazine June 1974 that is guaranteed to make everyone stand up and take notice. KIDS SAY IT BEST!

Charles Saxon

DEVIL FOOD EGGS

1 box of dark white eggs
1 jar of dark yellow devil food
3 dots of regular white salt
3 dots of black pepper
3 dots of red powder
1 faucet of extra hot water

Use a pot of a lot of silver on the top and a little gold under. Put a lot of eggs and water in it. Cook it on the outside because the outside is the stove and the inside is the oven.

Get a high person to know when to stop the stove. Little kids don't know yet.

Then set down and cool off for 3 minutes and little more. But it's not over yet

You have to chop the eggs in half till you see two pieces. Fill up the dents with devil food and put them in the refrigerator.

Wait around.
When you want them to come out to eat, you can put the red dots on.

They will taste very good to your mouth.

By Jane G. Martel From "Smashed Potatoes A Kid's Eye View of the Kitchen" Edited by Jane G. Martel, to be Published by Houghton Mifflin Company.

FOSTER FAMILY SUMMER ACTIVITIES

MILES CITY

The Miles City Foster Parents Organization has planned a family picnic on Saturday, July 13th at 4:00 p.m. at Wibaux Park. It will be a good occassion for everyone to meet the foster parents and their families as this chapter is newly organized.

- Edith Brewer

SIDNEY

Our local foster parent association has met again for its monthly meeting and many foster parents are interested in obtaining some tapes from the National Conference held in Spokane. We are having a picnic for our next meeting on July 11th.

- Richard Croy

FORSYTH

Foster parents of the Rosebud-Treasure County area were guests at the home of Terry and Connie Essex of Forsyth in the evening of May 24. Mr. & Mrs. Essex discussed with the group the main points they gained from the National Conference in Spokane and the State Meeting in Helena, which they attended. The need for foster parents to have some kind of insurance to cover the families with foster children was explained and discussed.

The group is planning a meeting for July 19th for all foster parents in Rosebud and Treasure Counties to organize their own association and with hopes of electing officers in the near future.

- Pat Mogen

GLASGOW

For the June meeting the Glasgow District Foster Parents had a discussion on foster parents and natural parents feelings. The program committee planned the years entertainment. For July, we are having a potluck picnic at the Kiawanas Park. Programing for 1974 is as follows:

Aug. - Foster child in school & its problems
Sept. - Behavior 0 - 6 years
Oct. - Behavior 7 - 12 years
Nov. - Behavior teens
Dec. - Christmas party
Jan. - Visitation problems - natural parents
Feb. - Indian Foster Children
Mar. - Child Abuse and Law
Apr. - Foster Child and Law
May - Report of National Conference

- Wilma Johnston

Continued on next page

BILLINGS

A regular business meeting was held in June. Plans were made for our next event - the annual July picnic to be held July 28th at North Park. Come enjoy the clowns, fun and food; time 1 p.m. This completes the summer activities, but will be back in September with a pot luck to begin an equally active year.

- Marietta Eby

MISSOULA

The Five Valley Foster Parent Organization has been busy planning the picnic for our foster children to be held on July 21, 1974.

The picnic will be in Bonner Park, a large park in the city, with ice cream and beverages available for the children. Each family will be bringing their own lunch. There will be many games planned with prizes awarded. We expect a good turnout for our summer event.

Our clothing bank is well underway. It is in the home of Mr. & Mrs. Bill Coan, 1044 S. 4th West in Missoula. If there is any clothing thay you may not be using any longer, our foster children would be grateful.

With the beginning of summer, we have obtained summer employment for many of our foster children through the community organization called "Spedy!"

- Peggy Kayser

KALISPELL

Weekend of June 29-30, the Flathead Co. Foster parents complete with natural and foster children gathered at Bitterroot Lake for a combination training - fun session. Theme was "Helping Good Families Become Better." There were some work/exercise sessions under the direction of Gerry Davis, SRS Staff Development, assisted by staff social workers for adults, teens and one yonger group.

Work time was interspersed with fun time. There were out of town visiting foster families from Helena, and Ronan. Total population for the weekend was approximately 95, there were 16 or 18 kids under 5, about 18 from 5-12, and we lost count of the teenagers. A good time was had by all, notably the teens. There were four homemakers helping with child care. We learned many things about how to do it or - how not to do it if we repeat it another year. Weather cooperated well. This was a result of our local parents wanting more training from Gerry after his cooperating with us in at least two training sessions for our group during the year. Enjoyed the good companionship of the out of towners and it was a good chance for everyone to get better acquainted.

Foster parents group has dispersed with regular meetings for the summer. We will reconvene in the fall. Program for the coming year is being worked out but not completed. I have had one 5 minute spot on local radio station regarding Foster Parent Program and needs. Will do another 5 minute spot next week. This is played 3 times a day on "News of the Valley" spot.

- Kathy Schnaidt

HELENA

The Lewis & Clark Foster Parent Association is relaxing and enjouing the summer. Activities have centered around "Funn Things". Circus tickets were obtained for foster children - the children still haven't figured out how the lady in the cage disappeared and the leopard took her place, (or have they?). Picnics, boat rides, and maybe a camp out are on the program for the summer. We just wish more foster families would join in the fun. It is also an important experience for the foster child to see that other children are living in foster homes and that they are not so "different" from every other child.

- Alice Morse

BUTTE

Hurray for Butte!! July 11, we held our first meeting with Ann Burds explaining the state and local advantages of having a foster parent association. There were several social workers and foster parents attending. Everyone was real enthusiastic about the association. If you didn't attend the meeting, we will be looking forward to seeing you at our next meeting to be held in the near future.

- Shirley Lane

GREAT FALLS

Our last meeting for the summer was in June. We had a talk with open discussion on first aid with Ken Halero as speaker. After the meeting we had a get together for Bill and Wanda Wait who moved to Michigan. They were foster parents in Great Falls for 3 1/2 years and cared for a total of 18 children. Wanda was vice-president of our local organization. We are planning a picnic and rummage sale for late summer or early fall.

- Edith West

For Your Information -

ATTENTION SOCIAL WORKERS: Please send the names and addresses of all newly licensed foster parents to: Ann Burds, State SRS, Box 1723, Helena 59601, if they wish to receive Montana's Foster Parent News.

∞

The Foster Child Scholarship has been written and submitted to Region VIII Vice President, Aubrey Kellogg for corrections, comments, and additions.

∞

Minutes of the National Foster Parent Association Board of Directors meeting held in Spokane April 23 and 24 are available in my office for anyone who is interested.

∞

The final draft of Montana's Foster Parent Manual has been typed and is now being printed. Several copies will be distributed throughout the state to foster parents and social workers for additional comments. After these comments have been returned and corrections made, every licensed foster parent in the state will receive this book.

∞

By this time, foster parents have probably received the Foster Child's Personal Record Book which was distributed to all county welfare offices in the state. If you have not received it, contact your social worker if you are interested in obtaining one.

∞

REGION VIII CHILDRENS BUREAU REGIONAL OBJECTIVES CONFERENCE (June 18-19, 1974)

Mr. Okazaki opened the Conference with some remarks about the "New Federalism" . . . the Decentralization of Federal Control" and its relationship with foster care. In line with this, HUD will help identify funds if we in the field can identify problems and come up with solutions. HUD regional office will give us technical service.

One of the major problems discussed was how to fit the National Objectives noted below with rurality predominant in Region VIII. No solution was provided.

National Objectives
1) 24 hour Comprehensive Emergency Service for Children
2) Adoption Subsidy
3) Interstate Compact on Placement of Children
4) Action for Foster Children Committees
5) Foster Childrens Guidelines and Standards

Resume of National Objectives
1) 24 hour Emergency Service:
   a) 24 hr. intake service
   b) 24 hr. emergency caretaker service
   c) 24 hr. emergency homemaker service
   d) 24 hr. emergency foster care
   e) Outreach and follow up where caseworkers help in altering the traditional functions of other agencies. Rural problems are different but the needs the same. Tailor the service to meet the need.

2) Subsidized Adoption - it is the state's responsibility to allow the greatest number of children to be adopted as possible. Therefore, funding should be taken from county responsibility and given to the state. The problems are pyramid ranging from permanency of the program to a family move to a sister state. None of the problems are insurmontable and may be worked out by means including an interstate compact for the latter problem.

3) Interstate Compact on Placement of Children is now effective in 24 states. Mr. Jim Pomroy of SRS is currently holding meetings with all social agencies on methods we'll need to join the compact. Jim can answer any questions on this problem. The MSFPO can put up seed money to enter this compact.

4) National Action for Foster Children - a third voice for foster children to finance services not otherwise funded for foster children. MAFC is based on local initiative and responsibility. The National Children's Bureau will give advice etc., but it is on the local level where the work is done. Who can be on the committee? JC's, other service organizations etc. who can pick some practical objective for foster children and set up steps to accomplish it.

The illusion of caring: Children make up 38% of the population and get 9% of Federal budget, aged make up 10% of the population and receive 24% of the Federal Budget.

The Feds offered no solutions they felt that NAFC is a local matter to be handled locally (I disagree).

Returns are needed by Jeanne Hunsinger on local activities during National Action for Foster Children Week last April.

"Child Welfare" Magazine of June 1974 shows how to set up a NAFC Committee.

REGIONAL OBJECTIVES CONTINUED

5) Foster Care Guidelines was an effort by CWB to standardize rules and regulations on a national basis. They received a short shrift from those present at our meeting since most of the state representatives in Region VIII felt many of the guidelines were unworkable. Also there is no federal money to help the states implement these guidelines.

Some generalizations evolved in this meeting and one was the quality in foster care is lacking. Considering the problems on a national scope, if a child is in foster care one year he will remain in foster care. The figures are inaccurate but 50 - 85% of all foster children will "grow up" in foster care. We are substituting community neglect for parental neglect.

Solutions

1) Team effort is therefore necessary between the foster parents and the agencies to work out solutions. Foster parents must organize. One foster parent can not deal with an agency.

2) Education is necessary for pre service and in service foster parents. (Bea Garrett has a testing program to be used in upgrading foster parents.)

3) New York and California have laws requiring a hearing to determine the child's plan if in foster care more than 24 months.

4) Any plan for foster children cann not be effective without the direct participation of foster parents. The constant factor in any plan is the foster parent.

- John Lombardo

FOSTER CHILD

I am new and beautiful, and I
will laugh with you in the sun.

I am old in sorrow, and I
will build a wall between us.

The wonder of childhood is in me
. . . and the desolation of grief,

And sometimes I hate
. . . but sometimes I love.

I will put my hand in your hand,
but I will be reaching for your heart,

Hoping that you will take all of
me
. . . knowing someday you
must let me go.

- Margaret Stuart

State of Montana
Social and Rehabilitation Services
P. O. Box 1723
Helena, MT 59601

ATTN: Ann Burds

FIRST CLASS